

# WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME

## 1 Cor 13:10--13

For everything God does, Satan has a counterfeit.

- 12:1-11 Gifts in general
- 12: 12-31 Purpose of gifts
- 13:1-13 Supremacy of love
- 14:1-25 Prophecy in relation to tongues
- 14:26-40 Regulations of gifts

**1 Cor. 13:8** *Prophecies shall fail*—by outside influence

*Tongues shall cease*—in and of itself...when purpose completed

*Knowledge shall vanish away*—by outside influence

**1 Cor. 13:9** *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.* At time of writing the believers had partial knowledge and partial prophecy

**1 Cor. 13:10** ... *when that which is perfect is come, ...*

One day no need for gifts of knowledge and prophecy. What about tongues? Tongues? Ability to speak in an unknown language

Observations of tongues?

1. Not for Christians
2. For unbelieving Jews
3. Sign

**1 Cor 13:11**

v.9 Partial knowledge

v.10 Mature knowledge

vv.11 & 12 Full knowledge

The church goes through a growth process and at the end of the 1st century it has complete revelation. Now has Mature revelation. Some day we stand before Christ in glorified bodies--FULL or MATURE knowledge

**Child:** Infant, simple minded, immature

**Ne:** negative; **Epos:** to speak

Infant not to place of being able to express himself intelligently

**Spake:** Not able to fully and intelligently communicate spoken language.

**I understood as a child:** A view of things; thoughts in general; Perspective in life

Barnes: *I had a narrow and imperfect view of things. I knew little, I fixed my attention on objects which I now see to be of little value. I acquired knowledge which has vanished, or which has sunk in the superior intelligence of riper years*

*I thought as a child:* To reckon, to impute, to reason; able to think it through

When I was a child my reasoning led me to very simple and incomplete conclusions

*But when I became a man ...* As I matured into adulthood my thinking grew beyond childhood

(a) *Naar*, a youth, ... beginning of maturity. Period when child begins to become independent from parents

(b) *Bachur*, ripened one. Ready for military service

(c) *Ish*, a man. Process complete. Mature physically, mentally and socially

*I became a man:* Shaking off of childhood. Independent of parental supervision and support

Paul saying that he has come from *nepios* to *aner*: from infancy to mature manhood

He did away with ("*put away*") childish things

Speech, thinking process, ability to reason changed and marked him out as an adult

**Context:** In early childhood of church--not understand as did when had complete knowledge

**Baxter:** *By the finalized Word of God the church moved from infancy to the maturity of adulthood.*

**1 Cor 13:12** Biblical allegory--Writer weaves together literal as well as symbolic meaning

**Literal:** babyhood of church

**Symbolic:** see Jesus face to face

*See through a glass, darkly;* In a riddle or obscure saying. In a riddle a puzzling question is proposed and the solution is left up to guessing

*But then face to face:* Without anything blurring my vision. I do not need to rely on the verbal revelations and knowledge of the apostles

**Gromaki:** *"If the mirror (glass) is metaphorical for something, then the "face to face" experience is also metaphorical. If the mirror represents imperfect knowledge, then the face to face encounter is metaphorical for the complete state of knowledge. This is consistent with the context of partiality and completeness. By looking into the partially revealed Word, man got a partial picture of himself: however, when the Word was completed, then man could see himself exactly as God saw him. Why? Because God had completely revealed the purpose of man and the church in the Word."*

**Now, I know in part:** Now I have incomplete revelation.

**But then ...** When God's revelation is complete I will see myself exactly as God sees me.

**This may be a Biblical allegory** (weaving together literal and symbolic meaning) Can be referring to time we stand before throne of God. Then have new bodies and be like Christ

1 John 3:2

Baxter: *Have you noticed the ever widening circles of explanation? First the completion of revelation--the Bible. Second, the completion of maturity--the Personality. Now the completion of expectation--the Lord.*

Compare this passage to studying of God's Word: 2 Cor 3:18

Do we have complete revelation of the Word? Yes indeed, sometimes, but not yet

Yes – Complete Revelation

Sometimes – Complete maturity

Not yet – Complete expectation

### 1 Cor 13:13 Idea of permanency

**Abideth:** remain, continue, abide, remain in place

**Faith:** Confidence in truth of God

**Hope:** A compound emotion, made up of a desire for an object and an expectation of obtaining it

**Charity:** Total sacrificial giving without expectation of anything in return

**But the greatest of these is charity:** Not necessarily speaking of permanence Speaking of value, importance, influence, and effectiveness

All three permanent...

Barnes: *Love enters into the very nature of the Kingdom of God; binds society together; unites the Creator and the creature; and blends the interests of all the redeemed, and of the angels, and of God into one.*

## SO WHAT?

1. Temporary gifts of Prophecy, Tongues, and Knowledge in operation during the "babyhood of the Church
2. When Word of God completed--clear knowledge of God
3. Because of this we ought to be able to understand and know Him.  
Someday see Christ and will be like Him.
4. A challenge for us to grow up spiritually